

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for collecting information from a storage server comprising:

~~using an agent to scan~~ scanning the storage server and collecting information regarding files stored ~~thereon~~ by the storage server, by an agent that is a separate device from the storage server; and

~~using the agent to summarize~~ summarizing the information and ~~create~~ creating a summary by using the agent: [[.]] and

storing the summary on a database server.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing the files and generating statistics regarding the files.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing the files and generating a table and a histogram regarding the files.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the statistics comprise a number of files, a size of files, and an average access time ~~if~~ of files.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising transferring the summary to a multi-appliance management application (MMA) before storing the summary on the database server.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising accessing the table and the histogram using a graphical user interface (GUI).
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein accessing further comprises accessing the table and the histogram over the Internet.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein collecting information comprises using a file thread to examine files and using a directory thread to examine directories.
9. (Currently amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon executable program code which, when executed, causes a machine to perform a method for collecting information from a storage server, the method comprising:
- ~~using an agent to scan~~ scanning the storage server and ~~to collect~~ collecting information regarding files stored ~~thereon~~ by the storage server, wherein the storage server and the machine are separate devices; and
- ~~using the agent to summarize~~ summarizing the information and ~~create~~ creating a summary, and storing the summary on a database server.
10. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method further comprises ~~comprising~~ analyzing the files and generating statistics regarding the files.
11. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method further comprises ~~comprising~~ analyzing the files and generating a table and a histogram regarding the files.

12. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the statistics comprise a number of files, a size of files, and an average access time ~~if~~ of files.

13. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method further comprises ~~comprising~~ transferring the summary to a multi-appliance management application (MMA) before storing the summary on the database server.

14-15. (Canceled).

16. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 9, wherein collecting information comprises using a file thread to examine files and using a directory thread to examine directories.

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a server coupled to a mass storage device;  
an agent coupled to the server, the agent to scan the mass storage device and to create a summary including cumulative statistics about data on the mass storage device, wherein the agent and the server are separate devices; and  
a database server coupled to the server and the agent to store the summary.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a monitor coupled to the agent and the database server to display the summary.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the server is a file server.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the server has a first file system and the agent has a second file system, the first file system is different from the second file system.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the summary includes histogram information about file system usage by file types.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the file server includes files stored in directories.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the summary includes cumulative information about the directories.

24. (Currently amended) A method for collecting information from a file server comprising:  
using at a multi-appliance monitoring application (MMA), ~~to monitor~~ monitoring the file server; and

~~using the MMA to instruct~~ instructing an agent to scan the file server, said scan  
comprising: [[:]]

~~using the agent to scan the file server and to collect~~ collecting information regarding files stored thereon by the file server;

~~using the agent to summarize~~ summarizing the information and creating ~~create-a~~ summary;

transmitting the summary to the MMA; and

storing the summary on a database server

wherein the agent and the file sever are separate devices.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the summary includes statistics regarding the files and the file server.
26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the statistics include a number of files, a size of files, and an average access time of files.
27. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein storing the summary further comprises storing the summary in a table.
28. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein storing the summary further comprises storing the summary in a histogram.
29. (Canceled).